give each other sympathy in their affliction. If one was castrated alone, he would die of grief. The Betsileo have a similar belief, but I could not learn whether it was universal among the Tanala. 225

Most of the Tanala territory is poorly suited to cattle culture because of the heavy forest and constant rain. It is only along the western margin of their lands, where they border on the plateau, that one finds real grazing country. The Tanala herds are usually small and, although cattle have great social significance, they contribute little to the physical well-being of the people. They are only killed in connection with ceremonies, and the average Tanala does not taste beef once a month. Indeed, cattle killings are so rare that to dream of cutting or eating beef is a bad omen, presaging a funeral in the family. Hides are so little used that, until European traders provided a market for them, it was customary to cut up the animals without flaying them and cook meat and skin together. 233 311 [342] [361] [439]

The Menabe consider milk a luxury, and it is almost impossible to purchase it in their territory. It is a by-product, taken only when the cow seems to have more than enough to feed her calf. Milking, like everything else connected with cattle, is done exclusively by men. The explanation given for this is that it is a dangerous occupation. Actually, it is a laborious process, requiring three persons. One man holds the calf where the cow can see and lick it, another milks, usually squatting on the right side, and a third holds the cow's tail over her back and gently rubs her vagina with his fingers. The milk is boiled at once, while still warm. It is considered disgusting to drink it fresh. After boiling, it is either drunk or cooked with rice. 234 462 [252]

The Ikongo make more use of milk and are somewhat more expert at milking, although they use the same method. They rarely boil their milk. A little is drunk fresh, but most of it is deliberately soured. A little sour milk is always left in the milking gourd so that the new milk turns almost at once. The curds are eaten with a spoon and the whey drunk. None of the Tanala know how to make butter or cheese. 234 252 [240]

Apparently cow's milk was rarely if ever used to supplement or replace mother's milk in feeding nursing infants. The idea has recently been borrowed from Europeans, but it is still considered rather unnatural and is used only as a last resort. 353 177

The wheel and plow were unknown in Madagascar prior to European contact. The Tanala never use their cattle for draught or transport and this holds for the rest of the island, with one or two exceptions. The Imerina and Betsileo now use ox carts and 177 492

L. London S-1 (1926-27) 1933 FTS Tanala FTS

kept clean, being bathed at least once a day with cold water. Very 854
small children are carried in the arms almost constantly, husbands
and older children doing their share. From the age of about four
months on, the child is carried in the back of its mother's dress (see
Costume). It is supported by the belt about her waist and sits with
its legs on either side of her body and its head and shoulders protrud-
ing above the garment. It is protected from sun and rain by a small
mat hung about her neck. These baby covers are always made by
the women themselves and it is impossible to purchase one which
has been in use, although this seems to be only a matter of sentiment
on the mother's part. The child remains on the mother's back except
at night or when it is being nursed. I have often seen women with
children on their backs working in the fields, the baby sleeping
soundly although its head was jerked to and fro by her movements.
Children continue to be carried for some time after they can walk.

No clothing is worn under the age of about three years. Even
when carried on the back, there is no equivalent for the European
diaper. As soon as the child begins to be carried in the mother's [863]
dress it is slapped for befouling her and it learns to control its func-
tions at a surprisingly early age. This was the only offense for which
I ever saw a Tanala child punished.

Nursing seems to be continued as long as the mother's milk holds 853
out, although the infant is given a little rice or other soft food as
soon as it will take it. There is no idea of regularity in feeding and
the child is given the breast whenever it cries. It is generally believed
that a new pregnancy has a bad effect on the health of the child
next older. As many mothers are still nursing when the pregnancy
begins, this belief probably has a sound basis of fact, but they ascribe
the poor health of the older child to its jealousy of the coming one.

Infant mortality is excessively high and even prior to European 165
contact the population must have remained almost static. No statis- 164
tics are available but practically every family I knew had lost one
or more children in infancy. The greatest loss seems to be from
intestinal diseases, but small children also suffer from malaria.
Adults, on the other hand, appear to be almost immune as long as
they remain in their own districts. When they go elsewhere, they
are liable to contract it, although usually in a milder form than
Europeans.

CIRCUMCISION

All males are circumcised, but there is no corresponding operation 304
for females. The circumciser is a professional, but the trade is not